

REMARKS

At the time of the Office Action dated March 23, 2006, claims 1-19 were pending in this application. In this Amendment, claims 1-3, 5 and 11-18 have been amended, claim 8 cancelled, and new claims 20 and 21 added. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Adequate descriptive support for the present Amendment can be found on, for example, page 12, line 23 to page 13, line 3; page 16, line 30 to page 17, line 2; and page 17, line 28 to page 18, line 1 of the specification.

Claims 1, 13 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tsuchida et al.

The Examiner asserted that Tsuchida et al. discloses a system and method for designing a printed-circuit board identically corresponding to what is claimed.

Claims 1, 13 and 16 have been amended in this Amendment. Claim 1, as amended, recites “selection means operable to, when selected, display on said display means detail information related to error correction registered in said database, when said correction-determination means determines that correction of said CAD layout data is needed.” Claims 13 and 16 recite “displaying detail information related to error correction in response to a user request, when it is determined that correction of said CAD layout data is needed.” Applicants submit that Tsuchida et al. does not disclose, at a minimum, the above limitations recited in claims 1, 13 and 16, respectively.

Tsuchida et al. intends to reduce interactive processes in designing a circuit board to improve efficiency of a design process (see the Abstract). In particular, Tsuchida et al. describes that when it is determined that CAD layout data of a printed circuit board is corrected,

Application No.: 10/759,114

a correction process is automatically performed. In contrast, the present claimed subject matter requires displaying detail information related to error correction when correction of CAD layout data is needed, upon a user request. The present claimed subject matter may be available as an educational tool for designers because the claimed subject matter can provide designers, for example, theoretical explanations for reasons why correction of CAD layout data is necessary (see page 14, lines 3-9 of the specification). Tsuchida et al. cannot provide such explanations to designers.

Based on the foregoing, Tsuchida et al. does not identically disclose all the limitations recited in claims 1, 13 and 16, as amended, within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102. Applicants, therefore, respectfully solicit withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102, and favorable consideration thereof.

Claims 2-12, 14, 15 and 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuchida et al. in view of Hara et al.

With respect to independent claims 11, 12 and 17, the Examiner acknowledged that Tsuchida et al. fails to teach a design-check system including a server and a client. However, the Examiner asserted that Hara et al. teaches the missing feature of Tsuchida et al. and concluded that it would have been obvious to modify Tsuchida's system based on the teachings of Hara et al. to arrive at the claimed invention.

Independent claims 11, 12 and 17 have been amended. Claim 11, as amended, recites "detail information related to error correction registered in said database is sent to said client apparatus in response to a user request, when it is determined that correction of said CAD layout is needed." Claim 12 recites "selection means that is operable to, when selected, display on the

Application No.: 10/759,114

display means detail information related to the check result registered in said server apparatus, when said server apparatus determines that the correction of said CAD layout data is needed.”

Claim 17 recites “displaying detail information related to error correction in response to a user request, when it is determined that correction of said CAD layout data is needed.” Applicants submit that the applied combination of Tsuchida et al. and Hara et al. does not teach, at a minimum, the above limitations recited in claims 11, 12 and 17, respectively.

As discussed above, Tsuchida et al. intends to reduce interactive processes in designing a circuit board to improve efficiency of a design process, and does not apparently teach displaying, or sending to a client apparatus, detail information related to error correction, upon a user request, when correction of CAD layout data is needed.

Hara et al. pertains to a circuit simulation method in which simulation results are displayed. However, it is apparent that Hara et al. does not teach displaying, or sending to a client apparatus, detail information related to error correction, upon a user request, when correction of CAD layout data is needed, as claimed. Applicants submit that Hara et al. does not cure the deficiencies of Tsuchida et al.

Based on the foregoing, the applied combination of Tsuchida et al. and Hara et al. does not identically disclose all the limitations recited in independent claims 11, 12 and 17, as amended, within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §103. Dependent claims 2-10, 14, 15, 18 and 19 are also patentably distinguishable over Tsuchida et al. and Hara et al. at least because these claims include all the limitations recited in independent claims 13 and 17, respectively. Applicants, therefore, respectfully solicit withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-12, 14, 15 and 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103, and favorable consideration thereof.

Application No.: 10/759,114

New Claims 20 and 21

By the same token, Applicants submit that new claims 20 and 21 are patentably distinguishable over Tsuchida et al. and Hara et al. Favorable consideration of the claims is respectfully solicited.


Conclusion

It should, therefore, be apparent that the imposed rejections have been overcome and that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable consideration is, therefore, respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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